

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 05172 290909Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /058 W
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O 290838Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5408

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 5172

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP PDIP ET US
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MENGISTU

REF: STATE 204910

1. I AM INITIATING REQUEST TO SEE MENGISTU TODAY, AND MEAN-
WHILE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TWO AMENDMENTS TO INSTRUCTIONS
REFTEL.

A. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TELL MENGISTU THAT WE
HAVE NOTED WITH APPRECIATION THE CHANGE IN TONE AND CONTENT OF
THE MEDIA RE REFERENCES TO UNITED STATES. (COMMENT: WE ARE
NOW BEGINNING FIFTH WEEK WITHOUT SHARP REFERENCES TO U.S.
ETHIOPIAN HERALD AUGUST 28 DID CARRY LONG ARTICLE ABOUT
ETHIOPIA, THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE UN, WHICH INCLUDED
COMMENT THAT "IT SAD COMMENTARY THAT EVEN USA WHICH CHAM-
PIONED ETHIOPIA'S RIGHTS IN 1935, HAS TODAY BETRAYED ITS
OWN CARDINAL PRINCIPLES, AND REWARDED AGGRESSION BY REFUS-
ING TO DELIVER WEAPONS BOUGHT BY ETHIOPIA FOR ITS OWN DEFENCE.
SUCH ATTITUDES WILL ONLY ADD FUEL TO THE FLAME AND DISTURB
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. INDEED IT IS AN UNWISE ACT
FROM SO GREAT A HEIGHT." THIS FIRST TIME IN MONTH U.S. HAS
BEEN MENTIONED BY NAME, BUT IT DOES NOT CHANGE MY FEELING
THAT REFERENCE TO MEDIA WOULD BE HELPFUL.)

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B. I RECOMMEND THAT I DO NOT MENTION SUBJECT OF A FUTURE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN TERMS OF PARA 5 REFTEL. TO DO SO AS
STATED WILL BE FOR FIRST TIME A CLEAR SIGNAL TO ETHIOPIANS
THAT NAMING OF AN AMBASSADOR HERE IS DEPENDENT UPON THEIR
GOOD CONDUCT, AND COULD VERY EASILY HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON
THEIR EXPRESSED INTENTION TO SEND AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON.

IF WE WANT AN ETHIOPIAN INTEREST IN NORMALIZING BILATERAL RELATIONS, I THINK IT PREFERABLE TO LET THEM GO AHEAD AND DO WHATEVER IT IS THEY PLAN TO DO WITHOUT CREATING A LINK IN THEIR MINDS BETWEEN THE TWO. IF DEPT WISHES ME TO SAY ANYTHING AT ALL RE SUBJECT OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, I RECOMMEND IT BE RESTRICTED TO A VAGUE COMMENT THAT WE TOO ARE THINKING ABOUT THE MATTER.

2. WHILE IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE AN APPOINTMENT IS FORTHCOMING, I WOULD NONETHELESS APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS AUGUST 30.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: MEETING WITH MENGISTU
TAGS: PROP, PDIP, ET, US, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)
To: STATE
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